Summoned Slaughterer

(呼び出された殺戮者)

Volume 10

Things like coronations, rebellions and marriages

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Story Description:

Touno Hifumi was summoned to another world, to be a Hero for a kingdom. Unbeknownst to the summoners, he's a kill-happy person who restrained his killer instincts with martial arts. Upon arrival he slaughter various knights and the mastermind of the event, the King. Unwilling to oppose this strong killer, the Princess let him go free. Thus start the fun life of travelling the world, unrestraintly killing any who attempt to kill him.

But first, lets purchase a pair of female slaves.

Original Story can be found here: Link

Chapter 77: Bad Day

It was because of the strange noise audible on the other side of the wall that caused Lotomago to notice the abnormality.

Suddenly hearing a sound of something hard hitting the wall, silence returned thereafter.

Lotomago has also been aware of the hidden pathways on the other side of the wall. He even knows that sometimes someone from the Royal Knight Order has been passing through there. Or rather Sabnak had consulted him about the permission to use it for travelling and he readily agreed.

“Is someone there?” (Lotomago)

Lotomago, feeling restless due to not receiving an answer, stood up. He told the maid to leave the room and call for some knights, but it was too late.

“Excuse me, Captain.”

It was 3 knights who entered the room without knocking. While they had already drawn their swords, one of them forced the maid to sit down in a corner of the room.

Turning her sight to Lotomago, the maid moved as she had been ordered by the knight.

Furthermore, around five knights entered from the exit of the hidden pathway.

A single one amongst them has been bathed in a spurt of blood.

“... That’s quite the appearance, but what’s your business?” (Lotomago)

“Well, it’s something simple. We want you to hold still here until everything has ended including you losing that position. That is your last task as captain.”

The knight, who entered first, explains calmly. Seeing Lotomago’s sight resting on the knight bathed in a spurt of blood, he laughs scornfully.

“As there were two knights on the other side of the wall intended to be your guards, we got rid of them.”

“You bastards…” (Lotomago)

“Uh-oh, please don’t resist pointlessly.”

Putting the sword, he held in his hand, at the throat of Lotomago, he says,

“If you don’t oppose us, we will safely release you as well as that maid. After you lost your position. Also, apart from that, we will loose our leeway if you resist too much, okay? We will be compelled to change our way of treatment not only towards you, Captain, but also towards Imeraria-sama.”

Looking at the maid, who is sitting down in a frightened state, Lotomago sighed and reseated himself on his chair.

“I don’t know what you’re planning to do, but… Balzephon, huh?” (Lotomago)

“Oya, it looks like you have suspected something. However, there’s no need for you to think about unnecessary things, Captain. Please wait obediently until we change this country and a new era begins.”

The intruding knights are grinning broadly while surrounding Lotomago.

The sighing Lotomago closed his eyes.

“It seems like there’s nothing I can do right now to change the situation here. As you said, I have decided to wait.” (Lotomago)

“A wise choice.”

The knights, confirming that there were no weapons close to Lotomago, left 3 behind and exited the room.

Lotomago, who watched their actions silently, gave more than a passing thought to the fate of these fools. Yesterday, Lotomago, sensing the uneasiness he felt from Balzephon’s state, discussed that matter with Hifumi.

He recalls the face of Hifumi at that time.

He only said nothing more but「Understood」, but his expression showed an innocent smile as if being a child having received a present.

☺ ☻ ☺

“Ahhahha!”

Suddenly hearing the laughter from the other side of the wall, the shoulders of Suprangel, who had a friendly chat with Nelgal, jumped in surprised.

“... Are they holding a party in the next room?” (Suprangel)

“I-I don’t know, but...” (Nelgal)

Isn’t this guy a bit too serious in replying to a joke? Suprangel pouts. Although he asked the maids within the room, they apparently aren’t aware of the circumstances either.

Since they don’t know what to do, they are patiently waiting inside the room. After a knock people entered. It’s the soldiers of Fokalore led by Alyssa.

“Hello, King-sama.” (Alyssa)

“Oh, the young lady from Fokalore, eh? What the heck is happening?” (Suprangel)

Apparently Suprangel was pleased with Alyssa’s simple-mindedness. He showed a facial expression of a good-natured old man towards her.

At the time he made this face for the first time, the servants from Horant, including Nelgal, made all together surprised faces, but by now they have already accepted it.

“Umm~ Hifumi-san has said a “rebellion” is starting. We came to guard King-sama.” (Alyssa)

“Rebellion? Despite the king of a foreign country being here? Oh well, it’s because I came quite abruptly. I will be able to feel safe, if it’s the young lady’s group protecting me.” (Suprangel)

“That’s right. Military Director Alyssa-dono, please treat our king well.” (Nelgal)

Nelgal, who quickly got up, very deeply bowed towards Alyssa, who was around two heads smaller than him.

“It’s alright, it’s not only king-sama. We’ve been told to protect all of you. For the time being, the people, who monitored this place, aren’t here anymore.” (Alyssa)

When Alyssa said that, Fokalore’s territorial soldiers dragged two limp knights out through a hidden door while laughing.

“Ah, director! We have cleared the enemy and gained total control over the hidden pathway. These guys were full of openings to a laughable degree compared to Lord-sama.”

“… I think you are making a mistake in the party you compare them to. Please continue to guard the pathway, okay? Tie the knight-san’s and lay them down in the pathway. The same for the other people as well, as planned.” (Alyssa)

“Roger!”

“At last it’s actual combat after we went sightseeing in Horant”, the soldiers chatted lightly while they guarded inside and outside the room.

Hearing that, Nelgal is frowning.

“… Hidden pathway? Did you monitor us?” (Nelgal)

Towards Nelgal, who speaks as if subduing his anger, it was not Alyssa but Suprangel who moved and hit him with an iron knuckle (T/N: ゲンコツ is hitting someone from above with a fist on the head often seen in manga and such as punishment for someone making a rude remark)

“Ouch!” (Nelgal)

“Idiot. It’s only natural to inconspicuously monitor for the sake of guarding and precaution. Despite the young lady’s group originally has no obligation to come protect us within the castle, what’s your manner of talking?! … Excuse me for my dimwitted successor.” (Suprangel)

“Er, well… It isn’t us who monitored you, but I can understand the unpleasant feeling of it.” (Alyssa)

“I’m very sorry…” (Nelgal)

Nelgal, whose head was completely hanging, hasn’t noticed Suprangel clearly mention him as “successor” to someone else.

There’s still some way to go before the goal*, Suprangel felt disappointed. (T/N: “madamadadane” those of you who watched prince of tennis will probably know this term very well ^^)

“So, what’s the matter with Hifumi-dono? If it’s that man, he’s someone to stand at the vanguard of such fighting scene.” (Suprangel)

Due to Suprangel’s question Alyssa folded her arms and tilted her head to the side.

“That is, I don’t know where he went. He only gave me my orders and ran off somewhere.” (Alyssa)

“Ho, that is…” (Suprangel)

Suprangel strokes his chin and laughs broadly.

“It looks like it will result in something enjoyable.” (Suprangel)

☺ ● ☺

Vaiya was in a hurry.

With several knights not coming back at the time of their shift change and the person, who went to check, not returning either, there was no one to send to gather information either.

“What’s happening?” (Vaiya)

He judges it to doubtlessly be an abnormal situation. While feeling it to be inexcusable for the preparations of the guarding of the coronation ceremony, he has ordered the other knights to investigate and headed towards Sabnak’s room at a quick pace accompanied by a single knight for the sake of communication.

As he advances while feeling irritated by the long hallway, he finally

reached the place that serves as Sabnak's office. Several knights are gathering in front of its door.

Among them were also the figures of people who were reported to be missing.

Once a single knight became aware of Vaiya, he put his hand on the swords at his hips and approached.

"Just when I wondered who it was, isn't it the Royal Knight Order's Vice Captain-sama?"

"You, eh... ?" (Vaiya)

Vaiya remembered the man in front of him.

As colleague from the time at the Second Knight Order, he didn't have many chances to meet him, but he was a person in the higher ranks within the order in regards to his mastery of the sword. At the time of Horant's attack he was summoned to his family's home and shouldn't have participated in the battles, but apparently he came back without Vaiya knowing about it.

"I was surprised when I came back. The Second Knight Order has disappeared, something like a Royal Knight Order has been formed, Vaiya became a vice-captain and that ... fellow from the Third Knight Order became the captain."

Due to the other party talking as if making fun of it, Vaiya makes an effort and replies calmly,

"If you don't like the changes, it's fine for you to stop being a knight and go home. There's no one stopping you." (Vaiya)

"Don't fuck with me! Though you are a traitor, who curried favours with the Third Knight Order! In spite of using swords to protect the nation, that man brought in weird weapons and spread them dirtying the dignity of knights. They stopped being knights."

The other knights, agreeing with his words, shouted abuses at Vaiya and the Third Knight Order all over.

"... I feel I finally understood Earl Tohno's meaning of disciplining the soldiers. I guess this is the reason why the Second Knight Order was defeated whereas Fokalore's soldiers won the war." (Vaiya)

"Humph, as expected of you, Vice-Captain. You seem to be skilled at talking. However, that's how far it goes."

Suddenly a pain ran through Vaiya's back of the head.

Once he turned around while eagerly preserving to keep his consciousness, which was about to become hazy, he saw the knight, who accompanied him, there, although he stood holding his sword, still stuck in its scabbard.

Although he didn't see his expression due to his blurry vision, he only realised one thing; him being a traitor belonging to the same organization too. While clenching his teeth and lamenting over his lack of a discerning eye, Vaiya lost his consciousness.

There was only one thing bothering him. Something had quietly passed him at the edge of his vision as he was on the brink of collapsing. As it was a person he has a recollection of wearing strange clothes with a wide hem, he heard a voice reprimanding him「You don't pay enough attention」.

☺ ☻ ☺

Just before Vaiya finally arrived at Sabnak's office, Sabnak swiftly drew his sword and confronted the knights who rushed into his room as opponents.

Slaying the knight, who tried a surprise attack, he has fallen over at Sabnak's side.

"Tsk. Being done in by the level of someone of the Third Knight Order..."

The knight, who cursed looking at the corpse loathsomely, glares at Sabnak while holding his sword.

In addition there are two more knights there as well. One of them had turned his sword towards the maid, Shibyura, who was within the room.

“You came entering quite unexpectedly causing quite the situation, but what’s your business with me? Since I’m busy I’d like you to keep it short though, okay?” (Sabnak)

Sabnak was sweating buckets while cracking a joke.

He was somehow able to deal with the sudden attack as result of receiving coaching from Hifumi, but Sabnak, who has no more than the level of skill to decently compete with the lower ranks of the knight order, has only a small chance of winning.

“We want you bastard to become a sacrifice in order to establish a new knight order organization. Princess Imeraria will announce the new system at the coronation ceremony afterwards. It is expected for the Second Knight Order to play a central part in the creation of the new system. For that reason, Lotomago and you asshole are nuisances.”

“Did you go to the captain’s place as well… ?” (Sabnak)

“No worries, once he’s of no use, Lotomago will also follow you in death.”

With these words he swung his sword. Sabnak repelled it in an unsteady manner of using his hands.

“How long will you survive against two opponents? In the end it’s a test of your luck.”

“Kuu…”

Sabnak, who retreated to a corner of the room as if rolling over, was one way or the other successful in avoiding a state of being pincer-attacked.

However, while dealing with the two in the front, his wounds are slowly increasing.

“Come on, come on! Do you wish to be tormented to death as it is?”

“I hope to find a way to not die. I still haven’t even been married yet.” (Sabnak)

“Don’t get cocky!”

The sword of the enraged knight cut open Sabnak's knee.

Sabnak, losing the way to stand up, somehow supported his body with the remaining, unhurt knee and defended against the sword swung down at his head.

The sword, carrying its own weight, gradually forced him down.

At that moment a scream could be heard at another place.

"Uwah!"

Once the knight, who isn't entangled with Sabnak looked back, he saw the knight, who had watched Shibyura, fallen. Shibyura stood there holding a knife in her hands while trembling.

"You bitch!"

As the knight, brandishing his sword, approaches her, Shibyura closes her eyes and starts running passing by his side.

"What?"

Once the ignored knight turned his sight in a hurry, he could see Shibyura headed towards the figure of his companion, who put even more weight into his sword to kill Sabnak.

"Watch your back!"

He called out in panic, but it was too late.

Shibyura, grasping her knife tightly, hurled herself into the flank of the knight and stabbed the blade deeply into the un-armoured part.

"Uh?! Y-You bitch!"

Shibyura let go of the knife and clung to Sabnak. The knight, who had the knife buried in his flank, raised his sword overhead and slashed not at Sabnak but Shibyura's back.

"Shibyura!" (Sabnak)

Holding Shibyura, who has limply collapsed towards him, Sabnak screamed, but Shibyura, shedding large quantities of blood, breathed out dripping in sweat.

“Though to protect... someone important... hesitated... no good...” (Shibyura)

“Don’t talk recklessly! Cling to your consciousness strongly!” (Sabnak)

The knight, who had his flank stabbed, has fainted in agony. The remaining knight is approaching in rage.

“You dare to turn your blade at a knight! You, with a standing as maid!”

But, this yell became the knight’s last words.

The instant he finished saying them, the point of a katana stuck out from his throat.

Without even understanding what has happened to him, he writhes vomiting blood and before long he has parted this world.

Immediately following a little bottle came flying and hit Shibyura's chin.

"Ugo."

Sabnak, grasping the bottle in a hurry, realizes the true nature of it. Opening it quickly, he pours it on Shibyura's back.

The wound on the back of Shibyura, who endured the pain with a frown, is healed in a twinkle.

Seeing this, Sabnak sighed in relief and looked up at the person who threw the magic potion.

"High-class magic potions have an amazing effect, Hifumi-san." (Sabnak)

Hifumi, who finished off the remaining two knights, sheathed his katana and sat down on the sofa.

"Rather than something like that, I'd like you to give me a bit tea. If a person goes on a rampage, they will get thirsty. Ah, also, since Vaiya has collapsed in the hallway, retrieve him before someone steps on him." (Hifumi)

"Though that's difficult..." (Sabnak)

Gently laying down the fainted Shibyura, whose breathing has calmed down after the wound healed, Sabnak smiled bitterly.

"She ended up using all of the magic potion. My knee is cut without change. To be blunt, it awfully painful making it impossible to stand up." (Sabnak)

An additional bottle hit Sabnak's forehead.

Chapter 78: Dance Floor Anthem

A knight unit appeared in Prime Minister Adol's room as well, but because they believed him to become an unlikely combat potential, he was postponed as target of the knight unit.

For that reason, at the time the knights broke into Lotomago's room and concluded gaining total control, it was already after the guard system of the Fokalore soldiers was put in place.

"Wh..."

Seeing the about 10 in total Fokalore soldiers, with some among them even holding kusarigama's, swords and spears, crowding the room, the knight unit, which consisted of 5 knights, lost their speech when they vigorously charged into the room.

On the other hand, the Fokalore soldiers jumped into complaining severally.

"Slo~w."

"You will be treated as apprentices in the Fokalore territorial army with such movements."

"You came entering without even drawing your swords. Are you morons?"

"Rather, too many have been assigned to this small room, right?"

"Are you making fun of Military Director Alyssa?"

"Of course not."

Due to the Fokalore soldiers chaotically clamouring about, the knights believed to be made fools of and shouted "Shut up!"

"From where did you bastards enter!? The soldiers are in charge of guarding outside the castle, aren't they!?"

While laying his hand on his sword's hilt, the leading knight spit out

these words. A counterweight sunk into his face.

Watching the swooning knight, who is spewing out his front teeth and bleeding from the nose, his colleagues have become dumbfounded. The Fokalore soldiers look at each other with bitter smiles.

“Is it inopportune for me to interrupt the words of Knight-sama?”

“Isn’t it fine as we were told to kill them anyway?”

“Let’s hurry up with getting rid of them and go to the next place.”

The remaining knights drew their swords due to the speech and conduct of the soldiers, which didn’t try to show a splinter of respect towards the knights and had absolutely no tension.

“You lowlifes are raising your hands against knights as inferior soldiers?”

Those were words intended to daunt them, but without even caring at all, the Fokalore soldiers started to let the weapons, they held, dance.

As result of the anticipatory training the Fokalore soldiers received in buildings like the Lord’s mansion, they are experienced in indoor combat as well. Enclosing the knights as group thrusting without swinging the sword as core of his attacks, a single soldier is dealing with the knights at front while the other soldiers slash away from left, right and the back.

In contrast, the knights originating from the Second Knight Order are basically in charge of fighting outdoors. As they were hitting pillars with their large sword swings, they couldn’t move as they wanted.

In the end, all of the five knights didn’t last more than a few minutes and were sliced apart like Kuai. (T/N: Kuai is a Chinese dish consisting of finely cut strips of raw fish or meat)

“Uh… how to say it, it’s extremely gruesome… Are you fighting like this even in the territory of Fokalore?” (Adol)

Once the battle finished, the hidden prime minister quietly came out. Looking at the knights having been turned into miserable corpses, he feels slightly nauseated.

“Not so often after the war has ended. There’s rarely anyone acting violently in Fokalore.”

“Thanks to that we will grow dull if we don’t go on expeditions”, several of them say.

“So, about the talk from just now, it will be fine, if I guide you to the place of Knight Captain Lotomago, correct?” (Adol)

“Yes, please. With us not being well-accustomed to the interior of the castle…”

“Then let’s hurry.” (Adol)

The Fokalore soldiers follow Adol, who has left the room at a quick pace, one after the other.

“All things considered,”

A single soldier muttered.

“I’m glad I wasn’t in the other group.”

Remembering their colleagues, who were assigned to another unit, all of them agreed.

“Good grief. Something like running in a narrow, dark places is ideal for scary midgets.”

Due to the laughter occurring in the rear, Adol was puzzled whether he should caution the soldier, but decided against it.

(He should also be in the core of the soldiers belonging to the national armed forces though.) (Adol)

If he knew of the proverb ‘One rotten apple spoils the barrel’, even Adol might’ve agreed right away.

☺ ☻ ☺

“Fuee… sneezes.”

A single Fokalore soldier was offered smiles of pity by his colleagues, as he had magnificently scattered his spit.

“Ugh, how filthy.”

“Bad, bad boy.”

“Be quiet. We are almost there.”

They, who merged into a three-man cell, are advancing through the hidden pathways within the castle.

Having received the order from Hifumi to split into groups, they are proceeding in a quick march according to the map, they had driven into their heads for a long time.

The area, they had been assigned to, is a section of the castle’s third floor.

Not wearing any armour and with a sword affixed to their waists being the only metal in order to not make any sounds, no metallic parts are attached to them.

“Do we have the aforementioned ball?”

“I’m holding onto it.”

One of the soldiers held out a small ball in his right hand.

Within the dim pathway its red colour could be clearly seen. Being soft, the ball was crushed between the fingers holding it.

“Whoa, don’t smash it here.”

“I know.”

“Shh! ... don’t go beyond this point.”

As the three advanced silently along the path taking care to not make any sounds with their feet, two knights, holding lights, could be seen standing.

With them chatting while facing the other way, they haven’t noticed the Fokalore soldiers.

“... It doesn’t seem like the lot of the Royal Knight Order is around here.”

“Looks like some people were killed, but apparently we have suffered some losses as well.”

“Damn it... is Balzephon’s plan really going to work? If the losses become too large, it will be impossible to seize the castle.”

“The operation has already started. We have no choice but to follow through now.”

The Fokalore soldiers judged the two knights to belong to the rebelling forces by the contents of their conversation. Looking at each other’s faces and nodding, the previously shown ball was tossed at the knights.

“Uwah!?”

With a splashing sound the ball hit the armour, burst open and scattered a red fluid.

“Ugh, blegh!?”

A smell similar to rotten eggs spread from the liquid. While being confused by the surprise, the knights spit out with sounds of vomiting.

The thrown ball was a plant’s fruit that gives off a terrible stench once the ripe fruit is crushed. Apparently its taste is delicious, but due to the smell no one intends to eat it. It was famous because it was used by children to play pranks.

“For trashy knights, who turn their blades against the nation, a rotten fruit is only befitting.”

“Only stupid simpletons would fight from the front.”

As they thoroughly provoked them, the teary-eyed knights drew their swords and approached in pursuit.

“You blockheads, there’s no way your swords will hit anything.”

The soldiers from Fokalore matched their breathing and broke into a run.

The knights, who wore armour, are too slow. While skilfully adjusting the distance so that they think they can catch up though they won’t, the

soldiers are running to their target location while pulling the enemies along.

“This is difficult.”

“Don’t die if you fall over.”

“It’s also no good to unexpectedly separate them. Where was the target location again?”

“Don’t forget that.”

They are running and running through the gloomy, hidden paths.

Even at other places, there were Fokalore soldiers luring knights in the same way. All of them are heading for the same location.

Towards the largest place in this building. Towards the dance hall.

☺ ● ☺

“What happened to the group that went to get rid of the prime minister? There isn’t any contact from the guys, who were restraining Lotomago, either.” (Balzephon)

Due to Balzephon raising an angry voice, his knight colleagues look at each other’s face and nothing else.

“... They likely also had the tables turned on them? Why are you saying something like you being strong without any basis?” (Imeraria)

Balzephon turned a scornful glare at Imeraria talking calmly.

“There is no way for us, who have continued to fight, to lose to the lot of the incompetent Third Knight Order, who only move around in secret for things like intelligence!” (Balzephon)

“If you believe that, it’s fine if you go checking it with your own eyes. ... It will likely be unpleasant to realize who is the strongest person within this castle currently.” (Imeraria)

Imeraria declared that in a nonchalant air.

“... I guess that’s fine. I, who is the leading power of this battle, tell you, I will personally defeat those resisting crushingly!” (Balzephon)

Entrusting the guarding to the knight, who continues to hold his sword at Imeraria's side, Balzephon draws his sword at his waist and takes the remaining knights along. The maids are sitting in a huddle next to Imeraria.

"Look forward to it. Once everything's finished, I will have you stand in front of the people as queen in name only." (Balzephon)

"Just wait for that obediently", Balzephon left with these words.

Once the door closed, the knight, who remained to keep watch, stared at Imeraria and the three maids, who were sitting lined up side-by-side, again.

"Don't get any strange ideas. If any problems occur, I plan to cut you down."

In the instant he told his threat in a low voice, his neck was attacked by a sword sweeping sideways from his back.

Cutting as far as half through the neck, a hard sound rings as the cervical vertebrae is hit.

It was Midas, who stood in the back of the knight, who collapsed while scattering blood.

"I'm very sorry for getting here this late, Imeraria-sama." (Midas)

Lowering his sword, Midas kneeled in front of Imeraria and apologised.

"Please raise your head, Knight Midas. I'm valuing your work very highly. ... Just where the heck did you appear from?" (Imeraria)

"Ha! As a matter of fact, receiving a request from Earl Tohno, I was observing the situation from a hidden passage. Because the number of enemies decreased, I used the opportunity." (Midas)

It seems like he is feeling ashamed for him not coming out at the time when Imeraria was hit a dozen times. Imeraria, who realized that, laughed unintentionally.

"You endured it well. If you had rushed out at that moment, you would have likely been killed and the chance to rescue me wouldn't have

appeared. Once again, you have my thanks. At any rate, did Hifumi-sama foresee this state of affairs?" (Imeraria)

"It looks like he was aware of several people plotting a rebellion. Because I would probably have been killed if I had declined the invitation, he told me to take the opportunity to conceal myself as guard..." (Midas)

"Do you know what is currently happening?" (Imeraria)

Midas lowered his head and shook it in reply to Imeraria's question.

"I'm sorry. I left the scene at an early stage." (Midas)

Imeraria, who thought for a little while, made Midas stand up.

"We will stay in this room as is, Midas-san. If by some chance some knights of the rebelling forces came, they wouldn't kill us quickly. Leaving that aside, please join up with Sabnak's group." (Imeraria)

Imeraria gets up.

"The coronation ceremony will be held. Please prepare for that." (Imeraria)

"Eh?" (Midas)

"The rebelling forces will be cleaned up by Hifumi-sama before long. It's not a matter to worry about." (Imeraria)

Midas had no choice but to abide to what Imeraria clearly declared.

"Good grief, if you at least helped me gallantly, it would raise my evaluation of you a little." (Imeraria)

Although Midas also heard the words she muttered, he decided to forget them right away. It's because it extremely unlikely for him to do something crude as sticking his nose into the affair of others.

☺ ☻ ☺

"You bastards are..."

With only discovering several corpses of knights scattered in the offices and without finding the crucial masters of the rooms, Lotomago and Adol, Balzephon's irritation only increased.

Before the eyes of Balzephon, who next headed towards Sabnak's room while making stomping sounds with his feet, stood a small girl.

"The representative of the rebels?" (Alyssa)

Visiting with her head inclined to the side, it is Alyssa.

"You rude lass. If you don't want to be slain, get out of the way... no." (Balzephon)

He brandished the sword with its blade blank.

"I will have you atone for the sin of having made fun of a knight." (Balzephon)

The sword, swung downward with all his strength, only hit the floor causing Balzephon stance to grandly fall apart.

Alyssa had averted its trajectory with the wakizashi she held in a backhand grip.

"That sword is..." (Balzephon)

It's a sword with only a slight curve having a single edge. Its characteristic, as Balzephon had heard before, was similar to the sword with the name katana, which Hifumi possesses.

"Hifumi-san's... I wonder if you don't get it. It's a verbal message from Earl Tohno." (Alyssa)

Even though she was assaulted with a sword, Alyssa, who wasn't perturbed in the least, retrieved a memo from her pocket with a rustling sound and read it out loud.

"The stupid knights are gathering in the dance hall. End." (Alyssa)

It totally rubbed Balzephon the wrong way that she even went as far as especially taking out a memo just to say only this much.

"Don't mess with me!" (Balzephon)

"Uh-oh." (Alyssa)

Alyssa, who easily avoided again and again the fast-moving, swung sword, jumped around with nimble movement.

“Since olden days my speciality is to evade, you know. That’s because I have officially worked as ojii-chan’s guard.” (Alyssa) (T/N: ojii-chan = grandfather in a very familiar way to call him)

“Wait!” (Balzephon)

At the moment Balzephon called her to stop, Alyssa immediately jumped out of the window.

“... Fuck!” (Balzephon)

Balzephon wavered while wandering around aimlessly for a while, but he doesn’t see any figures except the corpses of his colleagues up until here. Although there should at least be 40 of his colleagues remaining, he doesn’t meet anybody.

Clicking his tongue, he advances towards the dancing hall located at the centre of the castle with heavy feet at a quick pace.

Soon he arrives in front of a large door leading into the dance hall.

Once he opened it with a violent kick, he saw Hifumi’s figure there, surrounded by ten-odd corpses and furthermore encircled by knights beyond the circle of corpses turning their swords at him.

Due to the loud sound of the door opening, the gazes of everyone present gather on Balzephon.

“Ba-Balzephon! Do something about this man! He has already done in quite a few of us!”

Yelling while dripping in sweat, it was a knight, who had been earlier hit with the fruit and was lured up to the dance hall.

“Oh, at last the ringleader came?” (Hifumi)

The instant Hifumi said that, the door in the back of Balzephon, who entered the room, closed.

“Well then, aren’t there still around 30 of you remaining? Use your head. Brace yourselves and properly look at your surroundings. Recall the things you have practised until now. With this it will be possible for you to finally fight me decently.” (Hifumi)

Due to Hifumi's laughter, Balzephon grasped his sword strongly and trembled with rage.

Even if he only looked roughly at it, almost all of the remaining knights of the rebelling side have been gathered here. To put it simply, every last of them has been lured here and in the end more than 10 have been killed in a short amount of time.

"Don't screw with me!" (Balzephon)

Forgetting about himself being led here as well, he shouts.

"You idiots, all of you have been lured here abandoning your own stations! Furthermore, what's this sorry state with only a single opponent! You should be ashamed!" (Balzephon)

There also were knights, who lowered their sight due to his words, but there are also those feeling antipathy.

"Balzephon! Haven't you come here as well!?"

"Right! In the first place, it is likely your fault for the operation going badly!"

Due to the knights, who started to quarrel among themselves as if forgetting the situation, Hifumi made an astonished expression.

"Get along with each other. After all we will do our best to kill each other from now on." (Hifumi)

Holding the katana above his head, Hifumi laughs.

"Well, then let's start now, okay?" (Hifumi)

Balzephon readied his sword as well.

At any rate, if we kill the man in front of my eyes here, all will turn out well, opening his bloodshot eyes, he started to run.

Chapter 79: Kings and Queens

“What an idiot! Do you plan to win against this number of opponents?” (Balzephon)

Although Balzephon started to dash towards Hifumi raising his voice to yelling, he lost sight of Hifumi in the blink of an eye as he was moving, as if gliding, in the dance hall crowded with the other knights while laughing.

“Tsk! Where did he go!?” (Balzephon)

He surveys his surroundings while turning in a circle, but he isn’t able to spot Hifumi’s figure.

“You can’t say it’s always advantageous to have large numbers.” (Hifumi)

Striking the head of a single knight, he enters the blind spot of his opponent before he can turn around and strikes yet another knight.

“I guess it’s inevitable for you to obstruct each other with such experiences?” (Hifumi)

“There you are!”

A knight, who was brandishing his sword, slashes at the back of the talking Hifumi.

“Don’t speak. You have to do a surprise attack.” (Hifumi)

While saying these words, Hifumi lightly placed his hand on the shoulder of the knight, who was in front of him, and changed places with him in a swift movement.

“Gya!?”

“Uh…”

The knight, who planned to hit Hifumi instead ended up hitting his own colleague with his sword, was beheaded while being perplexed.

“You are far too close to each other. That results in you cutting your

own allies, if you swing your swords poorly." (Hifumi)

The knights, who personally witnessed the friendly fire, have an indecisive attitude even while preparing their swords.

Being in a separate location, Balzephon instructed all of them to disperse.

"Everybody, fall back to the walls of the hall!" (Balzephon)

Hearing his voice, the surprised knights are slowly withdrawing.

Hifumi, who was left all alone in the centre of the hall, sheaths his katana and laughs daringly.

"Is this the correct answer, I wonder? So, what will you do next?" (Hifumi)

"How arrogant... although the Second Knight Order was destroyed, you likely only attacked captain's group from the back after they were exhausted from the battle. Us knights won't fall behind a country-bumpkin like you bastard." (Balzephon)

"Look at the reality."

Hifumi shakes his head as if being incredulous about Balzephon's words.

He knocks with a finger on the pommel of the katana at his waist.

"We have so many knights here, why won't the fellow, who has already come out in front of me and told me to fight him one-on-one, come forward? It's simple. You saw your colleagues getting killed. You are probably aware that you won't be able to win." (Balzephon)

The knocking sound of a nail hitting the metal fixtures of the pommel is resounding.

Balzephon glares at the knights in his surroundings, but all of them are trying to not make eye contact and avert their sight.

"You worthless bunch! Don't you have pride as knights!?" (Balzephon)

"No, no, if you say this much, you have to take the lead and come

forward yourself." (Hifumi)

Saying this while laughing, Balzephon stared at Hifumi with a bright red face.

"Ah, if you are scared of this, let's go bare-handed." (Hifumi)

Once Hifumi drew the katana, together with the scabbard, from his waist and quickly tossed it into his darkness storage, he showed his palms.

"Hey, set up your sword properly. Since I'm not wearing any armour, you might kill me, if you hit me. If you hit me, that is." (Hifumi)

"You underestimate a knight far too much, bastard. I will chop you into pieces and present your corpse in front of Imeraria." (Balzephon)

Balzephon stepped forward correcting his sword stance.

While gradually shortening the distance to Hifumi, he dispatches the knights, who are in Hifumi's back, with a glance, that lasted only an instant.

Balzephon, confirming that both of them nodded, purposely spoke in a loud voice.

"Die!" (Balzephon)

"That's impossible in this situation." (Hifumi)

Hifumi slowly advances diagonally forward.

With only that alone, to say nothing about Balzephon's sword, the two swords, swung downward from the back, don't hit either.

Hifumi, who circled into Balzephon's back as if smoothly passing through, kicked the backside of his opponent's knee with the tips of his toes and locked an arm around the neck of the kneeling Balzephon.

Constricting the neck together with Balzephon's right hand holding the sword, Balzephon's consciousness is slowly getting muddy.

"Hey, try having a look at your surroundings. There's no knight trying to approach in order to save you. What's a knight? Are they guys, who also

abandon their friends to save their own lives? Are they running away from battles only caring about appearance and weapons?" (Hifumi)

Due to Hifumi's voice from right close-by, Balzephon's head has become a sloppy mess.

What is the pride of a knight I wanted to protect? What is that lot looking from a distance as I'm getting killed this very minute? Just what the hell did I want to become...?

"Your brain still works, I guess. What can you do to survive right now? Is it holding your head high and brandishing your sword? Is it being proud of your noble birth?" (Hifumi)

Balzephon thought. He literally thought in desperation.

I ended up dropping the sword due to my arm losing strength because of the pressure of the constriction. It's also impossible to grip Hifumi's arm with my left hand. I can't move my feet well due the kneeling posture either.

At last his vision became a cloudy white.

"... This guy was also only at this level, huh?" (Hifumi)

With a disappointed voice of Hifumi audible, the strength of constriction is raised even further.

"Gugu..." (Balzephon)

"Oh?" (Hifumi)

Balzephon ducked his head with all his might and opened his mouth. Somehow managing to open his front teeth to the degree of 2 fingers wide, he bit into Hifumi's arm resolutely.

"Uh-oh." (Hifumi)

On the verge of having meat torn off, Hifumi released the restraint and separated from Balzephon.

Balzephon, who got out of the predicament, gained distance from Hifumi by rolling on the ground without caring about his own

appearance.

“cough… cough” (Balzephon)

“Your choice just now was good. There are people even saying that biting is vulgar and such, but it’s an effective attack. Teeth are strong.” (Hifumi)

As Hifumi was talking calmly, Balzephon looked at him with eyes filled with tears while coughing and rubbed his neck staying silent.

“Now then, just now you literally bit yourself to survival, but… what’s your next move?” (Hifumi)

“… I was able to calm down due to being close to death. I won’t be able to become an ideal knight anymore. Therefore, there’s no meaning in putting up a front either.” (Balzephon)

While saying this, he removes his armour with clattering sounds and drops it on the floor.

“I have understood. I’m no match for you bastard.” (Balzephon)

Balzephon, whose figure became agile, muttered “Finally free.”

“Next time I will win.” (Balzephon)

Once he finished saying that, Balzephon turned his back on Hifumi and ran with all his power.

Without change he rushed out from the narrow exit for the servants, the knights and nobles usually didn’t use.

Hifumi didn’t chase after him.

“How nice. How far will he get? My anticipations increased by one more… well then.” (Hifumi)

Hifumi matches the sight of each of the knights, who saw off Balzephon suddenly escaping in blank surprise.

“Only one chose life rather than honour, but what will you guys do?” (Hifumi)

“If it’s now, I will give you a big service. I will finish you all at once

while unarmed", he said.

The knights let their looks swim for a while. But if it's such large number against an unarmed opponent, he apparently gradually became generous. One after the other set up their sword with a grim expression.

"That's great." (Hifumi)

Stepping forward with his right foot, Hifumi holds out both his hands in front and takes a relaxed stance.

"Let's do this thoroughly until either of us dies." (Hifumi)

☺ ☻ ☺

Due to the instructions of Midas and Vaiya, who regained his consciousness, the soldiers are guiding the populace to the plaza in front of the royal castle.

"At last the coronation ceremony is starting", several soldiers loudly exclaimed, cautioning the people to advance slowly without running.

"Midas-san, this side is finished." (Vaiya)

Vaiya, who concluded the stationing of the soldiers, ran up to Midas and gave his report.

"Understood. Since I will be continuing with the assignments of the guards for the venue, get in touch with Captain Sabnak." (Midas)

"Yes, sir." (Vaiya)

While issuing instructions to the soldiers without break, Midas, who remained at the plaza, made sure that the populace gathered in front of the royal castle.

At the time many people entered the plaza and the noise settled down, Midas unintentionally looked upwards and saw Sabnak's armoured figure appearing on the balcony. Imeraria slowly showed herself accompanied by Shibyura, taking the breath of the people.

"It's the princess!"

As someone raised their voice, the people's gazes instantly turned

towards the balcony.

Even the soldiers, while paying attention to the surroundings, turned their looks upwards against their better judgement.

“Everybody living in Orsongrande, on this occasion I, Imeraria Torie Orsongrande, will succeed my father and rise to be the ruler of this country.” (Imeraria)

A great majority of the gathered populace expressed joyful looks and applause reverberated.

Seeing this, Imeraria smiles delightfully.

“Thank you very much.” (Imeraria)

Imeraria, who regained a serious expression right away, inhales a large breath.

“This country has been exposed to many crisis. Battles have occurred, a great number of soldiers and knights got injured and a not negligible number of them perished. There are also the great accomplishments of Earl Tohno. Although these resulted in victories, there were sacrifices as

well. I won't forget this fact." (Imeraria)

Everyone listened carefully and silently to the speech of the new queen.

"For them, who risked their lives to protect this country, I have the obligation to create a good country, where everyone can live in abundance. If there was a result of having protected it, I believe it to be the mission to make such country. I'm well aware that I'm an unreliable, young ruler with shallow experience. For this reason I will promise all of you. I won't become an egoistic tyrant." (Imeraria)

Imeraria, who declared that with a refreshed expression, slowly returns into the royal castle while receiving cheers and applause to the degree of feeling an earth tremor.

While men and women were exchanging their opinions about the just heard declaration, they returned to their daily lives in succession.

Midas, who followed up on the dissolution of the populace, noticed himself shedding tear before he knew.

"Pajou, it might be something different from what you had been aiming for, but Imeraria-sama, firmly standing on her own feet, announced her path. There might be many problems, however I believe it to be a plenty satisfactory outcome." (Midas)

Anxious about the fate of this country and the princess, he recalls his colleague, who lost her young life. Secretly splitting away from the mass, Midas spilled a stream of tears.

☺ ● ☺

There were already less than 12, of the group surrounding Hifumi, remaining.

The group, who assaulted their unarmed opponent with swords, having their necks, arms and feet broken, were forced either to faint in agony, to toss themselves about in great pain or to die.

For those, whose limbs were still alright, the most they can do is to drag away their injured comrades to separate them from Hifumi.

Even as they slashed desperately, Hifumi directly steps into the bosom of the attacking knights, as if completely sticking to them like a magnet, and with his held-out fist, similar to two wedges, he hits their chins and

ribs.

Once they drop their swords due to the pain, their arms will be arrested and they will get thrown. Crashing into the solid ground with their heads first, their necks will be broken or, if they are lucky, they will faint due to the damage suffered by their heads.

Even if they tightly gripped their swords, their faces will be grabbed and the back of their heads will be thrust into the floor causing a flower of blood painting the floor. Or they will have the insides of their elbows beaten, which naturally causes them to injure their faces or feet with their own swords.

“Impossibles... the opponent isn’t even using a weapon.”

“Shit! Why doesn’t he die!?”

Frightened people, angered people, Hifumi continues his attacks without discrimination.

On the contrary, to finish it up, using the force of the sword swung downwards by a knight, he arrested the knight’s arm, quickly circled around, let the power flow downwards from above and crushed his face, nose first, into the ground making him faint.

One of them had their helmed seized and their cervical vertebrae broken by twisting.

One of them had their sword stolen and died by having it thrust into their own face.

One of them had the flesh of the throat torn off with fingers and bled to death.

There were still some alive moaning, but within the hall painted in red with blood, the last one, trying to run away, had his feet constricted and fell over. With him having his neck broken by being stepped on only Hifumi was remaining standing.

“Fuu...” (Hifumi)

As expected, it was a large number, Hifumi, who inhaled a breath due to

overflowing with emotions as it had been a long time since he handled a large number of opponents bare-handed, exhaled in satisfaction.

Amply savouring the smell of blood, he goes around delivering the finishing blow carefreely.

There were also some begging for their lives, but with a single word of 「Too slow (T/N: osoi)」 he snatches their lives away by twisting their necks or stepping on them without using the katana at all until the very end.

Hifumi, who suddenly noticed a presence entering the dance hall he remembers, slowly turned his look towards the open door.

"... Although it was such amount of knights, did you spare that person...?" (Imeraria)

It's Imeraria who stood there.

"The most energetic guy was also the smartest and ran away. He is probably the mastermind." (Hifumi)

"I dealt with the lot left behind, but there's still the possibility of something else lurking somewhere", Hifumi laughs.

"Hifumi-sama, just now I finished the coronation ceremony." (Imeraria)

Rather than a crown, she was bestowed a diadem with detailed ornaments and gleaming in golden colour so that it was more suitable to call it a tiara. It was on top of Imeraria's soft, silver hair.

"I see." (Hifumi)

With these short comment, Hifumi placed his heel at the neck of the last fainted knight and put his weight onto it.

Hearing the thick groan, Imeraria averted her eyes.

"Watch it properly. This is the result of you not being able to firmly lead the knights." (Hifumi)

Due to Hifumi's words, Imeraria put her breathing in order and surveyed the inside of the hall.

“What on earth do I have to do so that it doesn’t end like this... ?” (Imeraria)

“Don’t know. In my case, at the time I considered them to be suspicious, I would screw them up? ... No, this much had better be important for you. It’s convenient to reveal the idiots. In fact, this many idiots came gathering.” (Hifumi)

“Besides, there’s also a worth in doing it as there were so many opponents”, Hifumi says.

Did they guess the state of affairs? Groups of Fokalore soldiers entered and began to skilfully clean up the corpses.

“Well, this is your way of doing things. I have likely my own way of handling things. The desired outcome is probably different as well. Because you wanted to kill them, you did this. You likely have no choice to do it this way whether you like it or not.” (Imeraria)

Imeraria ponders.

“Think and think about it. You won’t get an answer until the results appear after trying. After all, if I look at the battle just now, I could have died. There’s nothing strange about that either. Considering the things you can do, deciding to do your best and using everything you can use, it’s fine to be sad or happy once the results come out.” (Hifumi)

Just before leaving the room, Hifumi looked back at Imeraria.

“Observe your surroundings. Though those, who are usable, might come gathering on their own accord, it’s a totally different story whether you will be able to understand the things you see and the seen things.” (Hifumi)

Does he plan to sleep? Hifumi said「Good Night」and left.

“That’s right, isn’t it? The prime minister, Sabnak, Vaiya-san and Lotomago. I should request the support from Midas-san as well. Besides...” (Imeraria)

Imeraria remembered the faces of the people, who gave her many

cheers and applauses not long ago.

Imeraria, who headed towards the audience hall at a quick pace, sat on the throne and summoned Lotomago. She ordered him the suitable measure of chasing the escaping Balzephon.

This was the first decree of Queen Imeraria.

Chapter 80: Paradise City

While publicly being peaceful and internally taking a massive toll, the coronation ceremony finished safely.

Imeraria will unify Orsongrande as new queen, Adol will continue to counsel the ruler as prime minister and Sabnak will be assigned as guard for the castle and Imeraria as Royal Knight Order Captain.

In the castle, where the shadow of the prince faction completely vanished, it was decided to appoint new personnel as civil officials and knights by gathering appointed nobles, who don't possess new territories, and the sons and daughters of nobles, who aren't estimated to inherit their households.

The aspect, which was different from how it was done up until now, was that all of the personnel would receive training in Fokalore.

"Then, please take care of them, Hifumi-sama." (Imeraria)

Having finished their journey preparations, the newly recruited nobles were lining up in a row. In their presence Queen Imeraria bowed towards Hifumi very naturally.

The nobles were noisily clattering about like ripples on a water surface, but there will likely be no one looking down on Hifumi as rising noble with this, Imeraria thought. If someone, possessing unusual vanity, were to come forth to confront Hifumi, the personnel, we gathered at great pains, would be decreased again.

"Understood. Since I received it as job, they will get trained properly." (Hifumi)

Hifumi showed a firm nod.

There is an agreement that from now on several of each, civil officials and military officers, will be sent as exchange students as request from the royal capital to Fokalore every year. Of course, Hifumi will be paid proper rewards by the kingdom.

"I'm sorry, Captain Sabnak, but thank you in advance." (Vaiya)

“Yea, please leave the house-sitting to me. It’s alright for you to slowly savour the life of a newly-wed.” (Sabnak)

Close-by, where Imeraria and Hifumi have been talking, Vaiya and Sabnak exchanged greetings of departure. He, together with several knights, will accompany Hifumi and the trainees as escort until Fokalore. Together with his fiancée, Phyrinion, they are scheduled to head towards the territory of Viscount Amazelo, which is Phyrinion’s family’s home.

“Once I finish my part, next it will be Captain Sabnak’s turn, right? Since the person, who will become your father-in-law, is nearby, will you return home for some greetings?” (Vaiya)

Watching Shibyura quietly drawing close from behind Sabnak, Vaiya smiles.

“Don’t make fun of me. ... I still haven’t officially talked with the prime minister.” (Sabnak)

Vaiya, who stared in surprise, raised his voice alternately looking at Sabnak and Shibyura.

“You surprised me there! Is there some kind of problem?” (Vaiya)

“That is...” (Sabnak)

“It’s only Sabnak-sama being a good-for-nothing. Please go meet your bride without worries as I will have taken him along for greetings, even if I have to hit him, until Vaiya-sama returns.” (Shibyura)

Shibyura, seizing Sabnak’s arm with the slender fingers of her right hand, is clearly digging her nails into Sabnak’s upper arm.

“As this person saved me by literally risking her own life, I intend to talk it over carefully.” (Sabnak)

In contrast to Shibyura, who has a rough nasal breathing full of fighting spirit, Sabnak was crestfallen and had dropped his shoulders.

“That is a problem.”

Between the maids a rumour has taken shape, which states that as result of Shibyura defeating two knights during the coronation

ceremony's rebellion, she saved Sabnak.

Those two had a good relationship since the coronation ceremony, but in contrast to Shibyura, who treats others with sterny* stout-heartedness, Sabnak, who often listens to the opinions of others with a gentle personality, is apparently seen as being totally dominated. (T/N: * キビキビ or kibi kibi, I think this comes from kibishii which means strict/harsh/stern etc. This is a bit cutely way to express an adjective like fua fua which means fluffy. So I will add an -y at the adjective's end to express it. ^^)

"At least go to do formal greetings once you get some confidence after having acquired slight achievements as captain." (Vaiya)

Sabnak saw Vaiya off laughing feebly.

☺ ☻ ☺

Different from before at the main gate of the capital, where it has turned into a cheerful departure, heavy air drifts about in the office of Knight Captain Lotomago.

Two people, Lotomago, who's the owner of the room, and Adol are in here.

"Then, there's no doubt that you will retire after today?" (Adol)

"Yea, with the serious affairs, that happened in the castle, far from being helpful, I ended up being caught by the enemy. I have no position as military officer anymore. I have received permission by Her Majesty the Queen yesterday." (Lotomago)

While sorting the documents remaining on the desk, Lotomago calmly answered the prime minister's question.

"However, at that time even Her Majesty the Queen as well as the Royal Knight Order Captain suffered from enemy attacks. I think there's no necessity for Lotomago-dono to retire or anything like that though..." (Adol)

Lotomago slowly shakes his head towards the prime minister, who tries

to detain him. His face shows no grief or bitterness. He has a calm and gentle expression.

"Even though Captain Sabnak was saved by Earl Tohno and prime minister's ojou-san, he personally acted towards escaping the danger. As for Her Majesty the Queen, she was betrayed by the guards attached to her. In comparison, I, who wasn't able to offer any kind of resistance, couldn't do anything more than passing the time by sitting and waiting..." (Lotomago)

Temporarily pausing his words there, Lotomago leaned his body against the back of the chair.

"No, that's no more than mere pretence. A military officer, who wasn't able to fight because of his old age, should leave. That's all there is to it. There's no meaning in lining up reasons, that seem like excuses, either." (Lotomago)

"It seems that you've made your decision." (Adol)

"It's just a story about running away. It isn't anything as noble as a decision. Besides, I discovered a successor, whom I was able to smoothly burden with the work." (Lotomago)

Due to Lotomago smiling, even Adol was lured into laughing.

With a sudden knock on the door, a single knight came entering.

"Excuse me. I was told you called for me, but... this is, were you talking with His Excellency the Prime Minister? I'm very sorry." (Midas)

It was Midas, who entered the room.

"No, it's alright since I called you here." (Lotomago)

Urged by Lotomago, Midas stands in front of Lotomago.

"Midas, how old were your children again?" (Lotomago)

"Ha? 10 and 7 years old, but... Did something happen?" (Midas)

Midas, who was confused being abruptly asked about his family, pulled himself together and replied honestly.

“I see, the prime time of being mischievous. Although you rejected it once, won’t you move to the mansion, which is close to the royal palace? For only 3 people the care-taking will be easy as well, if you employ a maid. Accordingly it will likely become more comfortable for your wife, too. Because it is easy to get lessons close to the royal palace, even for educating children, it will probably be convenient one way or the other.” (Lotomago)

“No, the size of that mansion is for us too spacious after all… I will feel awkward to receive food made by someone else since I like the home cooking of my wife.” (Midas)

He is a stubborn fellow, Lotomago smiles. Adol, who listened as well, showed a smile.

“However, if someone, who is the Knight Captain, commutes from too far away, it will likely take time to deal with it once something happens.” (Lotomago)

“? I’m the vice-captain. Because there’s also a place in the castle, which is on standby in case of an emergency…” (Midas)

“That’s what we will talk about now. You will become the captain. The notice of personnel change has already been accepted by Her Majesty the Queen as well.” (Lotomago)

Looking at the paper, handed over to him, Midas has been surprised as if his eyeballs are popping out.

“Th-This is… But, for me, who hails from a poor Viscount family, this sort of position is…” (Midas)

“Idiot!” (Lotomago)

Due to Midas being perplexed, Lotomago shouted in a thundering voice with a strict expression.

“Are you believing that you can save anyone by using your pedigree? Did that Earl Tohno obtained his victories by showing off his position as Earl? Is it only that much you, who watched him from close-by, gained from that person?” (Lotomago)

Due to Lotomago's powerful tone, he usually doesn't use, Midas was only surprised at the beginning, but at the time he properly grasped the things said, he was able to calm down and bow.

"I'm very sorry. I'm not very good at swordsmanship, but I have the experience of having seen many people by blending in amongst the populace. In that aspect alone I have confidence that I won't fall behind or even lose to that Earl Tohno." (Midas)

"Very well." (Lotomago)

Lotomago returned his smile to the same one as before.

"Then, go back home holding that notice of personnel change at once and explain it in front of your family. Isn't it necessary to have a talk with your wife first, also to prepare the moving? I have already called for people to tidy and polish up the mansion. A maid for around 3 people has been arranged as well." (Lotomago)

"... You have my deepest thanks for your considerations." (Midas)

In the eyes of Midas, who bowed once again, a few tears shone.

"What? If I consider the size of the things that will weight on your shoulders from now, this is the least I can do at the end. ... I will vacate this place tomorrow. Also, I will rely on you." (Lotomago)

"Ha! Please put your trust in me!" (Midas)

☺ ☻ ☺

Eventually the disturbances, which caused many victims to appear, primarily thanks to Hifumi, came to a temporary end.

Orsongrande and Horant established a firm bond using the territorial administration skills and combat engineering of Fokalore as materials for bridge building.

On the contrary, Vichy received a strong protest regarding the manoeuvring within the castle by the envoy and his attendants from Orsongrande. In the end, the cessation of hostilities took a shape close to a total capitulation of Vichy's side.

Even concerning the independent Pyulsan, by using the method of forming a relationship of sending personnel for studying towards Fokalore, in order to successfully establish a pipe, which is stronger than Vichy's, Vichy became unable to make a careless move on them. As a result Vichy recognized the independence due to them being an enemy they had no way to crush.

There were no countries, which perished, and the number of countries increased. Once they noticed, Orsongrande's realm had expanded and they became a power, whose right to speak couldn't be overlooked anymore as was custom in the past.

Although it was the common understanding of all nation that this was due to Hifumi backing them, Hifumi has a stance of not making any speeches or showing his face in the public field of diplomacy. Adhering to what they heard about his nonchalant attitude, the nations have become cautious in contacting him, which also includes Orsongrande, the nation he belongs to.

Instead, the appeal of his territory and not the person himself has increased.

Many people, who are engaged in territorial administration, guards, knights and people, leading territorial soldiers are coming to visit Fokalore. Because they stay with public funds and study there, the territory's population is following the path of increase and the amount of money spent in the territory rises as well.

There's also the influence of the war damages. Manpower from around the world comes gathering. Unnoticed, the population of the territory of Fokalore has become several times that when Hifumi was inaugurated as feudal lord first. Reaching the point that even cities like Arosel, being in the same territory, are gathering people, the developed cities, because of governors dispatched by Fokalore, rapidly put their appearance and institutions in order.

It might be only a natural outcome that the city turned into a festival merrymaking at the time the feudal lord came back to the city of

Fokalore, which achieved a prosperity above the current capital.

“Let us through~ !!” (Alyssa)

Leading at the front, Alyssa shouts and the soldiers desperately pry open a path.

In the back of Hifumi, who is advancing on horse, there is Vaiya’s group of knights and civil officials and continuing behind them the trainees, who were just freshly recruited.

The population unanimously clamoured and welcomed Hifumi, who was seen to advance while being accompanied by many people, home.

In order to reply to them, once Hifumi raised his left hand and lightly waved, high-pitched shouts of joy were raised.

“It’s good that Origa-san isn’t here.” (Alyssa)

The soldiers nodded due to Alyssa’s murmur.

Hifumi and Vaiya head towards the lord’s mansion as is and Alyssa guides the remaining people, who came to study, towards the lodgings, which are being rapidly erected in Fokalore.

“”””Welcome home, Lord-sama.”””””

At the moment they entered the mansion, the 5 civil official slaves greeted them with a bow.

Stepping forward, Caim stands in front of Hifumi.

“There haven’t been any problem on the whole. Let me express our pleasure for you returning home safely.” (Caim)

Since he had a serious look that didn’t shame his nickname of arrogance, Hifumi wasn’t particularly happy either, but as it had been a while since he last heard his indifferent voice, he actually experienced a feeling of having come home.

As he casually looked around, he caught sight of Miyukare looking around restlessly without being able to calm down.

“What are you looking for, Miyukare?” (Hifumi)

“L-Lord-sama, hasn’t the Military Director travelled together with you?” (Miyukare)

“… She is guiding the trainees from the capital towards the lodgings.” (Hifumi)

“Thank you very much!” (Miyukare)

Bowing in a hurry, Miyukare darted away.

As he is astonished by this spectacle, Phyrinion comes down from the upper floor and bows towards Hifumi.

“I heard about your return. With this the burden on my shoulders will be lowered as well.” (Phyrinion)

With her seeming to have only a bit fatigue left, her eye colour can be seen to have become slightly cloudy, too.

“Thanks for your work. Since it’s alright now, it’s fine to take Vaiya along.” (Hifumi)

Phyrinion, who smiled sweetly due to Hifumi’s words, showed a beauty appropriate for her age.

“Thank you very much. … Well, then let’s go.” (Phyrinion)

Having his arm seized by Phyrinion, Vaiya gave his greeting to Hifumi in a hurry and, taking Krinola along, the two of them headed towards Phyrinion’s lodging place.

“Then, we want the privilege of reporting concerning the events during your campaign.” (Caim)

“Before that I want you to listen for just a minute.” (Hifumi)

Holding back the civil official slaves around Caim, who started to take out documents each gathered as report, Hifumi turned towards Caim.

“For example, will there be any problem, if you guys nominate someone to whom I can entrust the territory for a while again?” (Hifumi)

Caim closed his eyes for merely a few seconds regarding that question and opened them then again.

“It’s probably difficult. Even without the the issues of ability, the territorial administration brings status with it. If it’s Lord-sama and his family, or possibly a noble dispatched by the capital, there won’t be a problem, but I don’t believe the system will function well, assuming some commoner or slave takes the post.” (Caim)

“I see. How troublesome.” (Hifumi)

It’s difficult to summon someone from the capital again. I don’t know what kind of person will come.

However, naturally I have no family in this world.

“Family... family, huh?” (Hifumi)

Grumbling up to here, the faces of his family in his former world didn’t appear in Hifumi’s mind.

And he didn’t feel anything about that not being the case either.

He also doesn’t think that there’s still some way to go before he wants to return to the world over there.

“That’s right. For example, there would likely be no problems to temporarily entrust it to your wife, if you were to get married.” (Caim)

“St...” (Doelgar)

Due to Caim’s suggestion, Doelgar tried to stop the flow of the conversation in a panic, but it was too late.

The topic of Hifumi’s marriage partner has flowed to the female staff member, who was pricking up her ears nearby and has been spread in a twinkling of an eye.

It didn’t even take 3 hours until the rumour ‘Hifumi is looking for a spouse’ spreads from the staff members to the soldiers and from the soldiers to Alyssa’s ears.

“This might turn into a disaster...” (Alyssa)

For Alyssa, if you ask her whether she sees the person called Hifumi as a man, she won’t be able to answer clearly.

I like him, but as result of having seen the fanatic called Origa from nearby, honestly speaking, it has cooled down in some respects. As for it becoming a competition, it will end by me being stabbed before it's about whether I can win or not, Alyssa is assessing.

However, for a spouse looking at it as third party, he is a rising noble with popularity regardless of inside or outside the country. But, for Hifumi, who isn't someone lining up huge achievements, it is easy to imagine that he will become the most popular partner, not just for nobles, but also for commoners, who will aim for the position of concubine.

"If Origa-san came back now, it would turn into a major disaster..." (Alyssa)

I don't believe that that Hifumi is actively looking for a marriage partner, but concerning Origa, even only the rumour will doubtlessly give her a plenty excessive stimulus.

Issuing instructions to restrain the diffusion of the rumour in a hurry, Alyssa ordered to pass a message to the gatekeeper to notify her first, once Origa returned.

"Origa-san, I want to meet with you soon, but only for now, don't come back, okay...?" (Alyssa)

With feelings similar to a prayer, Alyssa rushed towards the lord's mansion.

Chapter 81: Marry You

Balzephon, who escaped the castle, rushed into the dormitory of the knight order, grabbed his spare sword and money, he had been safekeeping, from his own room and left towards outside the city.

Simply reporting「It's an emergency mission」to the gatekeeper, he borrowed a horse, which has been prepared for messengers, and galloped away on the highway.

The knight, chasing him, confirmed that fact from the guard But he was in a situation, where he already didn't know how he should chase him, since it was more than 3 hours after the incident.

But Balzephon, being on the chased side, is rushing due to his dreadful feeling of Hifumi swooping down on him from behind while holding the blood-soaked katana any time now. He advanced on the highway with a speed, that was wasting his horse. He is heading towards Vichy. There is the necessity to pass through Fokalore, but once he enters Vichy and once he is within the cluster of city-states, which are engulfed in a maelstrom of chaos, it will likely be simple to hide as person of unknown affiliation.

Purchasing food in small cities and villages along the way, he obtained money and clothes by threatening a small number of travellers and merchants with killing them.

"I'm already in a state that makes me being called knight impossible." (Balzephon)

At the time he killed and discarded a merchant, who resisted, Balzephon laughed with a sentiment of self-deprecation.

Once he thinks about his own figure scavenging the pockets of the corpse, it turns into a miserable feeling to the degree that he wants to cry, but above throwing everything away, he has made his decision to survive no matter what he has to do until he accomplishes his revenge.

While repeatedly sleeping outdoors or in deserted houses of small villages, he heads for Vichy economising to the best of his ability. It's

probably necessary to bribe the gatekeepers with money at the time of entering Vichy. Besides that, there's also the possibility of money becoming quite necessary. Currently isn't the time to talk about luxuries. On the contrary, really decent inns are strict on inspections.

If I consider that I might even inadvertently bump into noble acquaintance, it's absolutely no good to stay for a long period in hotels and large cities.

I might encounter monsters but I will try to proceed by travelling along the high way being only slightly away from it. He judged that he should also be cautious of patrolling soldiers.

However, thanks to that he ran into a troublesome opponent.

Who's there?" (Balzephon)

"That's my line. You have quite the wild appearance, but that sword is a wonderfully nice item. Where did you steal it from?" (Origa)

It was Origa, leading several soldiers, who appeared in front of Balzephon in a place close to the forest, only visible as distant place from the highway.

"This sword is my own. Even if I tell you that, it hasn't the shape of being worn-out considerably. You don't look like some kind of bandit, but..." (Balzephon)

Putting his hand on the sword's hilt, Balzephon takes distance.

Watching Origa's figure, which was clad in a robe, he considered the possibility of a magician. He feels uneasy about her not holding a wand, but Balzephon's judgement, sensing that she was someone with a dangerous aura, was accurate.

"You apparently still haven't seen anything... Since I will offer you to overlook us, get lost." (Origa)

"Seen?" (Balzephon)

"It's something unrelated to you. If you obstruct the mission we received from Hi... our boss, I won't be able to guarantee your life, okay?" (Origa)

Balzephon felt a sense of discomfort during their talk. He saw that Origa has been constantly worrying about the area behind her.

“Mission, it is? Although you seem to be leading soldiers from somewhere, you yourself don’t look like a soldier or knight.” (Balzephon)

“It's pointless to pry too much. I have a premonition, that it’s no good, if I don't hasten my return. If you don't disappear, I will go even as far as erasing you, but…” (Origa)

Suddenly a sound of grass being trampled down can be heard from behind Origa.

“Origa-sama, the monster is headed towards this place!”

Hearing a loud voice calling for her attention, Origa left the spot promptly.

As result it turned into a situation of the monster, which jumped out, to appear in front of Balzephon.

“Wh-What? This fellow is…" (Balzephon)

Howling with a volume to the level of causing the skin to prickle as if receiving an electric shock, it was a monster similar to a tiger baring its sharp fangs, but its length was two sizes bigger than that of a normal monster.

You can see sharp claws on its thick forepaw. Even if only touched lightly, skin and flesh would be totally torn off.

The soldier, who held some tool and was likely chased by the monster, came out of the forest, where the monster jumped out from. If you look closely, the monster's back has been stabbed by two things similar to short spears.

“I’m sorry, Origa-sama. lt suddenly woke up and the restraints weren’t in time.”

“There’s no problem. Because it seems to have grasped its fodder, we can leave it as is.” (Origa)

Balzephon, realizing that he was designated as the fodder, Origa was

talking about, quickly drew his sword and fixed his stance.

As the monster raises a growl, he is unable to let his view wander.

“This is likely your prey. Take responsibility and dispose of it.” (Balzephon)

“Prey? Well, I don’t mind if you think of it like that. Please do your best to gain time so that we can get away. Well then." (Origa)

“Since it will be a bother, if you come chasing”, Origa threw a shuriken.

“Uh?” (Balzephon)

Balzephon, who received a wound on his knee, barely avoided falling down.

“Then, good bye." (Origa)

Origa, leaving while taking the soldiers along, vanished towards the forest and not the highway.

For the sake of pursuit, he stepped forward bearing the pain, but once the monster realized that its prey was impaired, it struck with its forepaw.

He managed to just ward it off by using his sword, however his feet had no strength and moreover his bleeding increased.

“Fuuuuuuuuuck!” (Balzephon)

The scream resounded in the forest, but his voice didn’t reach anyone.

☺☻☺

“If it’s too peaceful, it will be troublesome, too. For a shinigami, that is.” (Shinigami)

“Be quiet. I can’t concentrate.” (Adol)

Prime Minister Adol, who ignores the death god’s words by telling it to be quiet, moves to the next shelf without stopping his hands.

Ever since the coronation ceremony ended, Adol continued with his search of magic documents about return spells secluding himself in the

reference room.

Although the war ended for now, the result was the biggest problem, ‘Hifumi’, not only did he finish it unhurt, but his territory was continuing to grow to the degree that you could even compare its power with a whole country.

If I consider the situation from here on, even with the matter of sending personnel to Fokalore for the sake of strengthening our war potential for starters, the number of knights in the order has already decreased.

Concerning the work of the civil officials, whose stagnation is apparent because many nobles were disposed of, I can’t even oppose against receiving training to make them more efficient.

Rather, since the contents themselves are above the evaluated standard of Adol himself, you can instead call it a furtherance school.

However, while that may be true, I don’t want to believe that it is fine for Hifumi’s existence to be in this world indefinitely.

“He is a man that creates enemies if there aren't any. Anyway, I have no doubt that he will become a harm for this country and Her Majesty the Queen.” (Adol)

Adol, believing in that, worked hard at collecting documents about lost magic in order to prepare countermeasures after that.

“A bit longer, though it would be great, if someone stirred him up.” (Shinigami)

“There should have already been more than enough casualties. If such war happens often, this world will perish.” (Adol)

He scans the thin lithographs, which were arbitrarily and carelessly piled up, picking up one after the other carefully, so as not to break them, from the top.

“Oh my! In the world, he came from, many thousands and who-knows-how-many ten thousands people have also died (Shinigami)

“… How can society be sustained with that?” (Adol)

Adol, who unintentionally stopped his hands, looked at the floating shinigami, which only had its head.

Previously it was only a face, but now it has completely restored its head.

“The population's origins are varying a lot. There are also several billion people. It even isn’t unusual for people to survive up to 100 years in age." (Shinigami)

“Billions… I can’t even imagine. Well fine, I'm doing my best to return him to this wonderful world or whatever.

Shut up a bit.” (Adol)

“Understood” (Shinigami)

Adol heaved a single sight towards the shinigami, who disappeared as if smoke was dispersing, and continued his work.

Finishing to check all of the piled up lithographs, he is dejected as he didn't find the thing he’s aiming for.

“… Oh?” (Adol)

In the interior, where the lithographs were drawn from, there's something, that leaned against the wall and was inconspicuously wrapped up in a cloth. Once he took it into his hands, even that was once again a lithograph for record keeping.

Someone likely put it there in order to hide it, but probably ended up neglecting it. The cloth crumbles as he is tearing it off.

“This is… !” (Adol)

It’s different from Return magic, but maybe I can use this, Adol took off his outer garment, carefully covered the lithograph with it and left the reference room.

☺ ☻ ☺

The next day after Hifumi's retum, Phyrinion, who was prepared to head towards her family’s home, for some reason came to the conference room

of the civil official slaves after being summoned by Hifumi.

“Excuse me." (Phyrinion)

When she entered the room after knocking, Hifumi and Alyssa were in front of her.

She can also see the figure of Vaiya and in addition the 5 civil official slaves.

“It seems that I came last. I’m sorry for making you wait.” (Phyrinion)

While apologizing, she sits down next to Vaiya with a natural flow. Although someone let a laugh slip out, she doesn’t care.

“All of those called have gathered.” (Hifumi)

Once Hifumi begins to speak, all looks concentrate on him.

“First of all, Vaiya and Phyrinion will leave soon.” (Hifumi)

“Yes. After dropping by in Phyrinion’s territory, we plant to return to the capital. We plan to depart tomorrow.” (Vaiya)

“I see. Well, then I will give this to Phyrinion.” (Hifumi)

Caim, receiving a letter from Hifumi, hands it over to Phyrinion.

Once she opened the letter, a dispatch in Imeraria’s handwriting was written there. As the condition was the permission from Hifumi, Phyrinion was appointed as civil official of the royal castle and it stated that she would inaugurated in a role of coaching.

At the level of human resources you can call it an exceptional promotion, but Phyrinion was baffled.

“Umm… I will marry very soon though…” (Phyrinion)

Looking to her side, Vaiya is smiling for some reason.

“I know that, but what does that have to do with anything?" (Hifumi)

“Eh?” (Phyrinion)

“It's not particularly saying that you have to go to the castle at once, right? There likely won’t be any complaints even if you take up your post

after marrying.” (Hifumi)

“H-However, for a wife, whose position is to protect the family, to work means…” (Phyrinion)

“I might give birth to a child”, after saying this, Phyrinion covered her blushing face.

“Caim, is it not allowed for a married woman to work according to Orsongrande’s laws?” (Hifumi)

“There isn’t such a law. Even in cities, the madams are working full of spirit." (Caim)

“You see”, Hifumi faced Phyrinion.

“I guess it’s fine if you work in the castle together with Vaiya. Leaving that aside, please spread the literary and military arts, you have studied in Fokalore, over there as well. I plan to tell this to Horant as well, but I want you to reply to them if asked,” (Hifumi)

“Haa…” (Phyrinion)

Is it fine with that? Phyrinion thought, but since she realized during her stay in the mansion of this territory’s feudal lord that it was wrong to wish for something ordinary, she doesn’t say anything.

“Phyrinion, let’s still work in the castle together for a while. It’s too early for you to step down from active duty.

It’s a precious opportunity to be helpful for Her Majesty the Queen.” (Vaiya)

“Oh well… understood. Let’s accept this deal.” (Phyrinion)

Some people applauded to Phyrinion, who stood up and bowed.

“And I have to give you the severance payment and salary for your work in Fokalore until now." (Hifumi)

Doelgar, receiving Hifumi's instruction, placed a cloth bag filled with gold coins in front of Phyrinion and Vaiya.

It has been filled with an amount that will even trouble a grown man to

lift.

Once Phyrinion timidly opened it, all of it was filled with gold coins, without silver or copper coins being in sight.

“This much!? Isn't that enough to buy quite the mansion?” (Phyrinion)

Inside the bag there are 1000 gold coins. Since a capital’s soldiers monthly salary is 1 gold coin and a knight’s monthly salary is around 5~20 gold coins, Phyrinion was uneasy about the amount of money.

“It also serves as wedding gift. You did your best to increase the population and enrich the territory.” (Hifumi)

“T-Thank you very much.” (Phyrinion)

Together with Phyrinion, Vaiya also stood up in a hurry and bowed towards Hifumi.

However, the civil official slaves around Caim are aware of it, for the current public funds of the Fokalore territory paying this kind of amount is no trouble at all.

Because the business with Phyrinion and Vaiya came to a close, the two of them left.

What remained are only the true core members of Fokalore’s administration.

“Well, let's get to the real issue at hand.” (Hifumi)

“First is this”, Hifumi handed the civil officials a new document.

“This is..." (Caim)

Caim received it, but was unusually lost for words.

Looking at the documents, which were passed on by him, the expressions of the civil officials changed to surprise one after the other.

“Acknowledgement of Release? We won’t be slaves anymore?" (Paryu)

Hifumi nodded to the question of the youngest, Paryu.

“The territory is stable as well. You were already able to amass more

money than I paid for you. Besides due to the things I will do from now on, it's essential for you to decide whether you want to follow me with your own resolve. It was written by Imeraria." (Hifumi)

Due to Hifumi's treatment of the other side, who just became queen, hasn't changed, there are some thinking "As expected" and some "Is something wrong?"

"Since I have decided to always follow Hifumi-san, I want everyone to decide what they want to do in the future." (Alyssa)

"I will remain." (Miyukare)

It was a prompt decision by Miyukare after hearing Alyssa's words.

"Calm down, moron." (Hifumi)

As Hifumi said so, he entrusted his back to the chair and continued with "First listen to my story."

"To begin with, since you will be given an amount of money as severance payment even if you leave this place, it's fine to do business or whatever. I won't forbid you to speak about the details of my speech from here on just because you got to know them. It's alright even if you want to speak about it." (Hifumi)

"I will deal with you if you become an enemy", once he said that, it became a natural occurrence for everyone choosing to remain silent.

"After this I will go play with the lot of the beastman race. I also plan to go have a look at the Country of Knights which is beyond." (Hifumi)

Everyone came to the matching opinion "It likely won't finish with you going to have a look", but of course no one says anything.

"During that time I want you to continue strengthening this territory. If it goes as I have planned, the fight with the beastman bunch will begin first. Depending on the situation, it might also become a fight with the Country of Knights. At that time there's also the possibility that Vichy will once again become our enemy. It's depending on Imeraria, but it's not said that it's impossible for Orsongrande's royal army to become hostile

as well.” (Hifumi)

In other words, except Horant, which wants to focus on the reorganization of the nation, all their surroundings might turn into enemies. That’s his announcement.

Everyone except Alyssa and Caim, have fed up faces due to Hifumi brimming with the intention to cause turmoil again.

“I will remain on this post after all. The possibility of a war happening is the same anywhere. I might as well stay safe close to the strongest person. Besides I don't have any intention to separate from the Military Director.” (Miyukare)

Miyukare declared and threw even a wink towards Alyssa.

“I will stay as well. I ain't feeling like doing another job at this point. I finally arrived at a point where the commerce and industry relations are on track too. I also believe there’s no such enjoyable work like this." (Doelgar)

“I shall remain, too. Until now we weren't even treated as slaves. I also fell in love with this city.” (Brokkra)

Next Doelgar and Brokkra chose to stay.

Paryu pondered for a while, but seeing the others of the female camp choosing to stay, she apparently resolved herself.

“Please let me work just as before as well. I don’t think I would be good at anything else, even if I went to another place. I want to work here together with everyone." (Paryu)

And at last the looks gathered on Caim, who maintained his silence so far.

“As a matter of fact, there have been inquiries by several noble households for me.” (Caim)

“I see. Well, I guess so.” (Paryu)

Paryu likely wanted Caim to stay behind as well. She's looking at him with eyes full of anxiety.

Caim's excellence has spread, regardless whether in-or outside the territory by everybody coming and going.

If he hadn't the social standing of a slave, there would have probably been even more scouts concentrating on him.

The several letters, he took out from his pocket, are likely invitation letters. Caim ripped those apart and threw them away without hesitation.

"I have always pondered about Lord-sama's talk regarding growth and destruction. The thing called synergy of promoting the level and scale of wars as well as people becoming wealthy." (Caim)

Facing Hifumi, he bowed.

"After all, Lord-sama is probably a hero (eiyuu) summoned to this world. I wanted to see the advanced world even if smeared with blood. I believe if it is to be a wonderful world, there will surely be difficulties ahead. If one doesn't get hold of it after going through hardships, that won't be anything more but an illusion either. Please, let me serve you from here on, too." (Caim)

"Understood. I will leave it to you from now on as well." (Hifumi)

"Then, please choose a governor before you leave the territory once again. It doesn't even matter, if it's only as decoration, now." (Caim)

"Ah, that, huh?" (Hifumi)

Alyssa's shoulders trembled due to a topic appearing, she was afraid of.

"I will marry someone and leave it to my wife. You guys were also nagging me about an heir for a long time now." (Hifumi)

"For a noble it is an important duty to continue the family line."

"Saying something like that, is there anyone who wants to marry me?" (Hifumi)

Due to the words he said lightly, everyone, who was in this place, except Caim, shouted「Please wait until Origa returns」.

Chapter 82: Marry Her

The gossip, that Hifumi is apparently looking for a marriage partner, spread within Orsongrande and was even circulated in Horant and Vichy, despite Alyssa's and the civil official slave's eager efforts.

The rumours, recounted by soldiers moving within the country and merchants going around the streets, has even reached Imeraria's ears before long.

"... Someone will marry that Hifumi-sama?" (Imeraria)

"It's a mere rumour, but since he has excellent civil officials at his side, I can't deny the possibility of them proposing it for the sake of preserving the Earl Tohno household." (Adol)

Although she agreed with Adol's remark, she isn't able to imagine some woman standing next to Hifumi and even less exchanging the vows of marriage with him.

Looking at Imeraria, who ended up silent while knitting her brows, Adol displayed a state of panic.

"N-No way, Your Excellency the Queen, about Earl Tohno..." (Adol)

"Huh?" (Imeraria)

Only after she started talking about it, the image of herself standing next to Hifumi appeared in front of her eyes.

Imeraria shook here head vigorously in denial.

"What are you saying? As queen I believe to know the requirements of the person I choose. Also, isn't Hifumi-sama my enemy?" (Imeraria)

Adol can't conceal his concerns in regards to Imeraria, who is blushing albeit denying it.

"R-Rather than such talk, I think we are to speak about the national politics now." (Imeraria)

"Yes. However, regarding the policies introduced by the territory of that Earl Tohno, if you consider the scale of the capital and its surrounding

areas for adopting the tax system, it will become something very troublesome. We probably should start with the staff getting used to it by experimentally introducing it in a distant province. However…" (Adol)

Flipping through the documents nearby, he hands over a piece of paper, that was inserted in-between, to Imeraria.

"This is a copy of the "family register" which had been transcribed from the territory of Fokalore." (Adol)

"It's amazing. They have investigated as far as birthplace*, their home-town*, relatives, who don't live with them, the family members and their address?" (Imeraria) (T/N: Okay, this one needs a bit explaining: 出生地 = shusshouchi 出身地 = shusschinchi. Both might mean birthplace but there are differences, which depend on the conditions. shusshouchi is the legally written-down birthplace in the family register. shusschinchi can either be the place you were born, the place you were born and grew up and the place you grew up. If you are born and grow up in the same place, shusschinchi = shusshouchi.)

"As you can see by the attached materials, they have investigated things like the work details and recorded them." (Adol)

While staring intently at the documents, she examines the record contents of one, she likely selected at random, as example.

"The reformation of the tax system also profits from this sort of accumulated information about the residents. That's how it is. On grounds of these information, they have apparently been managing things such as marriages, births and deaths." (Adol)

"Currently Fokalore has become the area with a more accurate budget compilation and population transition than anywhere else in the world. These data of the residents is even useful for stuff like the tracking and prevention of crimes and the prevention of slums being created by mediating work and confirming the enrolment," Adol continues.

Listening to his explanation this far, Imeraria dropped her shoulders while putting back the documents.

“In a political meaning, you are saying that Hifumi-sama has gained plenty of heroic achievements. If only father and me didn’t make a mistake in the way of meeting with him, it might have been possible to make adequate use of Hifumi-sama’s power for the sake of the country.” (Imeraria)

Loneliness overshadows the expression of Imeraria.

Certainly, since our first meeting, there were only problems. In my imagination I yearned for a maiden-like bright love by meeting with a powerful, great brave-sama*, who is over overflowing with justice. (T/N: eiyuu = hero, yuusha = brave. My choice is like that because yuusha is the kind of hero to go with a party in a dungeon or challenge a demon lord, while eiyuu is someone admired for their deeds and achievements for the people by the people. Either can be the other as well, thus it’s just my personal distinction here.)

I don’t want to think I made a mistake, but didn’t I end up becoming a queen by some mistake? Isn’t this a dream? Even now she believes that.

“Overcoming the difficulties, Your Majesty has splendidly protected Orsongrande. There have been various dangers and many precious things were lost as well, however as result the country continues to exists, the realm has expanded and even now its growth is continuing.” (Adol)

Adol’s words are no lie.

Encouraging her by using facts, made Imeraria happy.

“Thank you. Well, then let’s pull ourselves together and proceed with the talks. Let’s decide on a place, where we will introduce the family register as trial for making a draft.” (Imeraria)

I will give it my all once again, Imeraria thought. Someday there will even come a day, where I can laugh at it while saying「It was really difficult at that time」.

☺ ☻ ☺

Being riddled with wounds all over, Balzephon sank in a pool of blood.

At the time he barely regained his consciousness, he wondered whether his body, which was hurting everywhere, was in pieces, however his body, which is reflected in his faint, returned field of vision, is somehow in perfect, good health.

"Survived... huh?" (Balzephon) (T/N: Cockroaches are hard to kill after all.)

The blood, spread in the surroundings, is a mix of the monster's and Balzephon's. As the bleeding of the monster, which has died with its huge frame having toppled sideways, has already stopped, Balzephon tried to crawl out of the sticky puddle, but his body isn't moving properly.

"That woman... that weapon was the same thing called shuriken or something, which Vaiya gave the Royal Knight Order." (Balzephon)

Somehow he shifts his neck. Once he surveys his surroundings, he saw a thin metal stuck in the roots of a tree.

"Tsk... in the end she is someone affiliated with that man called Hifumi or something, huh? Don't haunt me wherever I go." (Balzephon)

Fighting the deliriousness, he is remembering up to the point of being smashed by the swung forepaw and having somehow stabbed his sword in the throat of the monster.

Using up all his strength before being crushed underfoot the monster, he probably just managed to survive. The sword in front of him, being stuck in the monster as is, has been stained red by being drenched in blood.

"... Eh?" (Balzephon)

In the chest of the fallen monster he discovered an unnatural bulge right next to the place the sword was stuck.

Once he casually touched it with his hand, he knew that something hard was buried underneath the fur. As he was checking it by feeling around, he also found traces of stitched together sewing.

Mustering his remaining strength, he draws the sword, cuts the seams

and thrusts his hand into the opened hole.

"What's this?" (Balzephon)

The dragged-out item was clearly man-made.

Tubes are growing out of it and continue into the body's interior. It appears to be parasitic.

"It's that woman's doing, eh? Probably..." (Balzephon)

He believed it was a tiger possessing a large build he hadn't seen until now, but once he looked a bit closer, he found that it was similar to a monster with a bit shorter fangs. Although it was a tiger he encountered during the training of the knight order, it was a lot smaller and weaker at that time.

If the same tiger was under the effect of enhancement with the magic tool then, would it have been a ferocious monster possessing this large build?

And what would happen if it was used on humans as well?

"... As it is, even if I collapse here, I will simply die, huh?" (Balzephon)

Turning over so that he faces upwards, he raises his eyes towards the dull and cloudy sky.

Rather than dying here, shouldn't I achieve my revenge even if I have to become a monster?

"I lost my knighthood and in the end I might even cease to be a human. That isn't even a funny story." (Balzephon)

Encouraging himself with his monologue, Balzephon, sitting up his body by straining himself with the last ounce of energy he possessed, began to carefully extract each pipe connected to the monster.

☺ ● ☺

Origa, who left behind the forest where they abandoned Balzephon, came in contact with the rumour related to Hifumi's marriage in a small town, where they stopped for resupplying.

“Would you tell me more details about this story?” (Origa)

The eyes of Origa, who passed a silver coin in a polite tone, are filled with strength and have become far too bloodshot. The green pupils, looking from underneath the hood, which she wore low over her eyes, can be seen as somehow shining in a dim light.

The shop’s old man, having the silver coin pressed into his palm with a strength that its shape embedded itself there, begged with nothing but teary eyes,

“P-Please stop. I also only heard it from a peddler at the time of stocking up.”

“Where did that peddler go then?” (Origa)

He had a feeling that the peddler, who told him about it, would go through a bitter experience, but the old man easily spit out the regularly used inn of the peddler.

“I thank you for the information.” (Origa)

I ended up selling my colleague for a silver coin, the old man was grieving after being released. Origa rushed to the inn at a quick pace.

From the story, spit out by the peddler after passing some money, Origa became aware of the facts that Hifumi had returned to Fokalore and started the territorial administration in full scale.

Somehow or other it’s a talk about whether he won’t marry someone in order to continue the territory on that occasion, but it seems to be spreading as rumour from nowhere else but Fokalore.

“Hifumi-sama is...” (Origa)

She tells the soldiers, who are following her, to check the remaining amount of magic tools.

As a result of continuing to implant them into powerful prime fields* all throughout the area from Horant to Orsongrande with a zealous effort, Origa’s group managed to quickly lower the amount of over 100 magic tools, they had at the beginning, down to 5 remaining. (T/N: prime field a

is a math term. I think the author means here that they took the basic monster/animal types (no mutations or cross-breeds) and implanted the magic tools into those. Why it's better to do this way though, no idea)

"... Even during our return to Fokalore, this remaining number can be easily dealt with..." (Origa)

Giving a prediction, which has a feeling of being strongly influenced by her desire, Origa decided to head towards Fokalore after staying one night in the inn she had rushed into. The soldiers were also happy that they would be able to return at long last.

"It will be a forced march until Fokalore. As we will advance close to the highway putting the core of our attention on our speed, take care to sleep restfully tonight." (Origa)

"Roger."

The peddler, aware of Origa's group staying in the same inn, paid the inn's fee in a hurry and left in order to escape towards his next destination.

The Fokalore special unit, Origa's group, pays no heed to such matters, rises early next morning and leaves the city behind alongside the rising sun.

While passing through several cities, they select monsters, which have a high fighting strength as their bases are bears and alligators, restrain them by weakening them with magic and weapons, embed the magic tool and release them. They perform this work many times over.

After all the magic tools have been used up, they run along the highway at full speed using a platform wagon.

"Very soon I will meet with Hifumi..." (Origa)

In Origa's mind somewhat beautified memories of Hifumi were swirling about.

While the concealment caused some troubles, she is conceited about properly finishing her assigned mission. She also expects to be praised

most likely. However, beyond that, at the thought of appealing for more, she has no confidence that she will be able to voice it out.

For a moment she considers to be rejected, even so it's also a fact that Origa is the woman closest to Hifumi. She doesn't plan to yield this spot to anyone else.

"Hifumi-sama, Origa will very soon return to your side. I continued to act separately from you for a long, long time. Therefore..." (Origa)

The words scattered into the wind were packed with desires leading somewhere beyond.

☺ ☻ ☺

Although she is holding an exaggerated title called Military Director, Alyssa has been generally active at the actual site while leaving the majority of paperwork to Miyukare.

Her figure of training the soldiers and rewarding them for actively taking part while performing some tasks, without becoming a soldier herself, was received well even by the the fief's population noticing that.

While shaking her red, short hair lightly, the small-built Alyssa is walking on the shopping street, eating a fruit similar to an apple and tasting the slightly sweet, freshly baked bread from a bakery. She produces a gentle and heart-warming mood wherever she goes.

While chewing on the fruit she arrived at last at the entrance of the city.

It's a rule for those entering and leaving the city to be inspected by soldiers. Although it is an established custom to exempt nobles and wealthy merchants from another fief, Fokalore doesn't permit that at all.

It is necessary to line up in order upon arrival without social status playing any role. It has been thoroughly followed according to the rules of the manual, but if you compare it with other cities, the soldiers' treatment of remarkable commoners is soft. It was very popular with merchants, that are coming and going.

The soldier, spotting Alyssa's figure, salutes delightfully.

"Director, thanks for your work!"

"Thank you. What's your impression?" (Alyssa)

"Today the number of people trying to enter the city is small. It seems like the immigration drive is gradually calming down as well."

Wanting to confirm the names and social positions of those having entered the city this time, Alyssa takes the documents, which recorded their objectives, and flipped through the pages.

There are many soldiers, who can't write characters, but the literacy rate of Fokalore's soldiers is 100%. In the first place, they won't be allowed to enter the army unless they are able to read and write characters. This was also something decided by Hifumi.

Honestly, at the time she arrived at Fokalore, Alyssa was in a state of being able to read but her writing was quite disastrous. But thanks to Miyukare teaching her with constant attendance, she reached the point of being able to write quite the beautiful characters.

Finishing the check smoothly and signing it to show that, Alyssa returned the documents.

"If there is a problem, report it at once to the Lord's mansion..." (Alyssa)

Past the soldier, opposite her, Alyssa saw something approaching at an abnormal speed on the highway stretching into the far distance.

"Something's coming! Since it might be a monster, everyone get ready for battle! Someone go calling Hifumi-san!" (Alyssa)

"Ha!"

The soldier, who dashed away after receiving the order, conveyed the instructions to everyone at the gate and they lined up facing towards the highway. A single, young soldier hurried towards the Lord's mansion.

Alyssa, standing in front of those soldiers, draws her short sword.

"... Eh? That's a platform wagon, right?" (Alyssa)

Alyssa, who has the best eyesight in this place, noticed the something, approaching while raising a cloud of dust, to be a well-known vehicle.

I wonder who's on it, sheathing her short sword, she strained her eyes and saw light blue hair fluttering in the wind, of which she had some recollection.

Tension travelled through Alyssa's back with a shiver. Turning around in a hurry, she yells at the soldiers at this place,

"Contact Hifumi-san right away to wait in the Lord's mansion for further messages! If they encounter each other in this place, it will turn into a disaster!" (Alyssa)

Due to Alyssa's face's colour changing, the soldiers began to run with a speed never seen before.

Meanwhile the platform wagon ridden by Origa arrived in front of the gate and stopped with a loud sound.

"Long time no see, Alyssa." (Origa)

"Welcome home, Origa-san." (Alyssa)

"Well then, I want you to let me through now." (Origa)

Alyssa jumped and clung to the waist of Origa, who got off the platform wagon and tried to go ahead at a quick pace.

"W-Wait a moment!" (Alyssa)

"Get away. From now on I will have a match* betting my life." (Origa)
(T/N: shoubu... some of you might understand it better if I said, shoubu pantsu)

"Before you have that match, I think there's something you have to do!" (Alyssa)

Origa, who was dragging along Alyssa as she walked, stopped her feet at those words.

"Something to do? Certainly you don't want to tell me to have a match competing over Hifumi-sama, do you?" (Origa)

Alyssa doesn't falter even as she is glared at by Origa, who is grasping the closed iron-ribbed fan tightly. The truly angry Origa is known for letting violence, instead of words, speak.

"No, no, it's something else! Before you go to Hifumi-san's place, isn't it necessary to prepare for the sake of your battle? The current Origa has her hair unkempt and ruffled and her face covered in dust. Even your clothes..." (Alyssa)

Did she remember it only after being told so? Origa, looking down on her robe covered in dirt, vigorously apologized noticing her own mistake.

"E-Excuse me! Thank you for telling me!" (Origa)

"It's fine. I'm a woman as well. It's not like I don't understand Origa-san's feelings either." (Alyssa)

Somehow I earned time for Hifumi to return to the Lord's mansion, Alyssa clenched her fist imposingly within her mind.

"If I successfully become Hifumi-sama's bride, I will recommend your case to Hifumi as well. Well then, before appearing in front of Hifumi, I will go back to my room." (Origa)

"Yea. Don't be in a hurry and take it easy. Hifumi-san should be in his own office." (Alyssa)

"Many thanks", Origa went away in good humour.

The soldiers, who returned together with Origa and were left behind afterwards, are sitting down in some place right after entering into the city feeling worn-out.

"U~~mm... Anyway, good work. Since you will have holidays for a while, rest up slowly, okay?" (Alyssa)

"T-Thank you very much."

The soldiers, who felt like having been rescued from something, shed tears and line up words of gratitude towards Alyssa.

Maintaining the public order is difficult, Alyssa breathed a huge sigh.

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